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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Application No. : 09/614,286

Filing Date : July 12, 2000

First Named Inventor : Hiroshi Tanabe

Group Art Unit : ~~2812~~ 2813

Examiner Name :

Attorney Docket No. : NECK 17.552

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
ER TJS		4,724,219		M. Ridinger	02/09/1988	—
ER TJS		5,477,058		T. Sato	12/19/1995	—

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
TJS		2,133,618 A	GB	General Electric	07/25/1984		
TJS		0,178,447 A2	EPA	Fujitsu Limited	04/23/1986		
TJS		57-148351	JP	Tokyo Shibaura	09/13/1982		
TJS		63-292619	JP	Fujitsu Ltd.	11/29/1988		
TJS		2-102517	JP		04/16/1990		
TJS		5-142745	JP	Hitachi Ltd.	06/11/1993		
TJS		6-320292	JP	Nippon Steel Corp.	11/22/1994		
TJS							

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check here if English language translation attached ⁷

Examiner Signature	<i>E. K.</i>	Date Considered	4 Jan 2004
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Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw a line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.1⁶ if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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